



**FOCUS**  
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

This has been a year of great successes and also transitions at FOCUS. After four years of inspiring leadership, Fred Boehrer has left to return to his roots in teaching at the college level. All of us at FOCUS wish Fred the very best in the future. Fred was instrumental in securing more than \$1.3 million in state and local funding over five years, enabling FOCUS to expand our services to many more individuals while offering fresh, locally sourced fruits and vegetables to our pantry and breakfast guests.

In 2024, we served 44% more meals at our food pantry than last year's record number and almost 175 meals daily at our breakfast program. We accomplished this through ongoing support through our Nourish New York and Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) grants and a new 2.5-year Albany County American Action Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. We also expanded funding to the FOCUS Food Network to purchase locally grown food for ten other food pantries in Albany County.

Thanks to you, our awesome volunteers, donors, covenant congregations, interfaith affiliates, board members, and neighbors, FOCUS is a place **where we can "act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God."** (Micah 6:8). We hosted Muslim Soup Kitchen Day, thanks to our friends at Al-Hidaya Center. We collected and distributed many school supplies to the children we serve. We began our fifth year of increasing fresh produce giveaways, thanks to Soul Fire Farm and generous donors. At Delmar Reformed Church, we hosted a Brooks BBQ fundraiser. With our guests, we gathered at City Hall and the State Capitol to advocate for food security and housing rights.

I am grateful to our very dedicated staff who navigated changing circumstances with grace: Wells Wellington, who assumed the new position of Director of Programs overseeing operations at the FOCUS Breakfast Club and pantry programs, Lorraine Houk who directs the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry (at Emmanuel Baptist Church), Derrick Baxter who recently accepted the position of Breakfast Coordinator and oversees our Breakfast Club Program (served at Westminster Presbyterian Church), and Belinda Quaye, who manages our office and supports our volunteers. Thanks also to George Wilhelm, the FOCUS Comptroller, who has also recently provided significant assistance in updating our financial reporting system, and to Kim Deal, who recently accepted the position of Communications Manager. In January, I was excited to introduce a new role to our FOCUS Team, Director of Programs, and to subsequently step into a supportive role as Interim Executive Director following Fred's departure. We greatly appreciate our team of Associates who keep us prepared to serve our neighbors: Ronald, Julius, Denys (LoLo), Neicy, Rasha, John, and Daniel.

With your support, we continue to explore new ways to be in solidarity with our neighbors. We remain committed to racial justice, food security, immigration rights, and fair housing for all. Together, let us move into 2025 with renewed energy and a shared commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

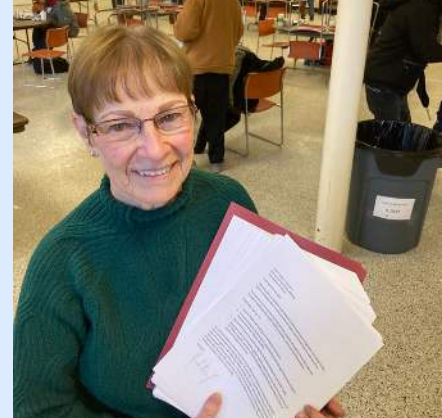
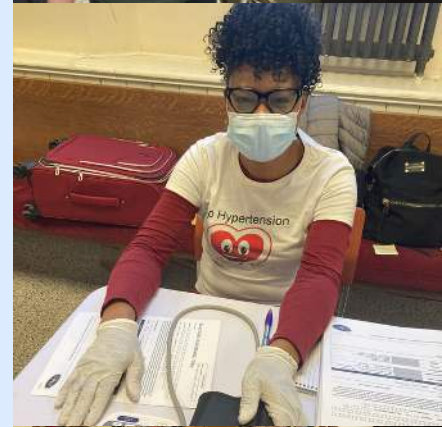
*Richard Becker*

Interim Executive Director

## FOCUS COVENANT CONGREGATIONS

DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH  
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# PEOPLE WE HAVE SERVED

## Interfaith Food Pantry

195,122 meals served to 4,190 households  
(A 44% increase from 2023 and close to triple the number served in 2022 when we served 68,757 meals.)

## School Supplies Drive

We distributed 53 filled backpacks and additional supplies to local families.

## Breakfast Program

25,561 meals served (a 25% decrease from 2023 but twice the number served in 2022.)

## Winter Clothing Drive

80 sets of winter coats, hats, and gloves were distributed to women, children, and men at our Breakfast Program



# GRANTS, ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Adirondacks Beverages  
American Baptist Women's Ministry of NYS  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
CDPHP  
Capital Area Council of Churches (CROP Walk)  
Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region  
David and Candace Weir Foundation  
David G. Hannay Charitable Fund  
Delmar Reformed Church  
Ellen Van Bethuysen  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Food Pantries of the Capital District  
First Presbyterian Church in Albany  
First United Methodist Church  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany  
Foresight Architects  
Goodwill Fund  
Hannaford Corporation  
Hannay Reels  
Independent Family Office, LLC

Kenneth Halverson Charitable Trust  
Larsen Family  
New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
NYS Division of the Budget  
Paul and Patricia Gioia Foundation  
Radian Group  
Regional Food Bank  
Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation  
Sisters of Charity BMV  
Sneeringer Family  
Stewart's Foundation  
The First Church in Albany  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Troy Savings Bank  
Union Dutch Reformed Church  
Unity Church in Albany  
Wakefern Food Corporation  
Westminster Presbyterian Church



# "IN KIND" GIFTS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

## Interfaith Food Pantry

USDA Food: 14,422 lbs.  
Donated Food & Personal Care  
Items value: \$3,500  
Food Supplement value: \$7,813  
Volunteers: 37  
Volunteer Time: 2,043 hours

## Other Volunteering Opportunities\*

Volunteers: 78  
Volunteer Time: 765 hours

## Breakfast Program

USDA Food: 1,464 lbs  
Donated Support & Space at Westminster: \$27,600  
Volunteers: 77  
Volunteer Time: 4,370 hours

\* BBQ Fundraiser, Food pickup and delivery drivers, Holiday Bags, Sandwich making, School Supplies Project, Smith Center friends delivering food, Turkey Giveaway, Unloading large food deliveries

*Thank you to our awesome volunteers who serve our guests with compassion and dignity!*

### 2024 Revenue: \$802,948

Donations: \$179,408  
FOCUS Covenant Churches: \$53,970  
Affiliate Congregations: \$15,234  
Appeals / Fundraising: \$66,609  
HPNAP / NNY / ARPA Grants: \$480,941  
Other sources: \$6,786

### 2024 Expenses: \$832,288

### 2025 Projected Revenue: \$860,777

Donations: \$175,000  
FOCUS Covenant Churches: \$59,000  
Affiliate Congregations: \$16,000  
Appeals / Fundraising: \$69,000  
HPNAP / NNY / ARPA Grants: \$533,000  
Other sources: \$18,777

### 2025 Expenses: \$882,761

*We are truly grateful for the continuous support of an anonymous benefactor who has enabled FOCUS to continue to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors.*



# FOCUS ACTIVITIES 2024

**FOOD PROGRAMS:** FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry (located in Emmanuel Baptist Church), and FOCUS Breakfast Club (served at Westminster Presbyterian Church). In July, we began our new initiative, the FOCUS Food Network. We are now sharing our Nourish NY grant with eight local urban and rural, food pantries in a unique collaboration: First Church in Albany, St. Vincent's Church, Blessed Sacrament Church, Welcome Chapel Lunch Box, St. James' Church, St. Patrick's Church (Ravena), Trinity United Methodist Church (Coeymans Hollow), and Venture Churches (Selkirk).

**FOCUS ADVOCATES:** We link community organizing with direct service to promote housing for all and compassionate immigration policies. We advocate for an end to racism, poverty, and food insecurity.

**ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIPS:** We distributed halal meals during Muslim Soup Kitchen Day (thanks to the Muslim Soup Kitchen Project at Al-Hidaya Center) in July. We distributed 206 Holiday food baskets to FOCUS guests during December.

**WORSHIP TOGETHER:** Remembering who we are and to whom we belong: Combined Summer and Winter Worship Services, Easter Sunrise Outdoor Worship, and a Blue Christmas Service.

**INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY AFFILIATES:** Congregation Beth Emeth, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, Islamic Center of the Capital Region, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and Unity Church in Albany.

**FIRST ANNUAL FOCUS FESTIVAL OF THANKS AND GIVING:** Hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church and co-sponsored by FOCUS and Westminster Commons. A festival open to the general public and FOCUS community. More than 100 people attended.



## PROGRAM PARTNERS

Albany Code Blue Safety Committee  
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Albany County Coalition for the Homeless  
Albany County Department of Health  
Albany County Department of Social Services  
Alliance for a Hunger Free NY  
RISSE  
Associates for Training and Development (A4TD)  
Bread for the World  
Capital Area Council of Churches  
CDPHP  
Commission on Economic Opportunity  
Crop Walk  
Food Pantries of the Capital District  
Fusion Recovery  
Ignatian Volunteer Corps Chasing Health  
Legal Aid Society  
NAACP (Albany Chapter) Equinox

NYS Labor-Religion Coalition  
Pathstone Senior Community Service  
Employment Program  
Pathways to Health  
Poor People's Campaign of the Capital Region  
PressGo Designs  
Schenectady Community Ministries  
Siena College Office of Academic Community  
Engagement  
South End Community Collaborative  
Trinity Alliance  
United Tenants of Albany RADIX  
University at Albany - MAPS Student Club  
USCRI  
Whitney M Young-Safe care Connections  
Wizard's Wardrobe  
Women's Employment Resource Center





# FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY



SCAN ME

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